

lot of sense. It's needed, and you need to pass it as quickly as possible to get money in the hands of the people who are going to help this economy stay strong.

Now, I want you—I'll make sure you understand in the State of the Union that this package certainly doesn't mean we ought to do something else on taxes. And the best thing we can do to deal with uncertainty in the economy is make the tax cuts we passed permanent. *[Applause]* Thank you. Thank you all.

Our most solemn duty is to protect the American people, and I appreciate the fact that we've worked closely together over the last 7 years to do just that. That is our most solemn duty. Fortunately, we've got a lot of good people working hard to help us protect America, and these professionals need the tools they need to do their jobs.

You know, one of the most important tools is to be able to figure out the intentions of an enemy that still wants to do us harm. If they're making calls into America, we need to know why they're calling, what they're thinking, and what they're planning. We passed the Protect America Act that has aided our efforts to monitor the communications of terrorists and foreign intelligence targets. And I want to thank the good work of the people here to get that bill passed last year.

Unfortunately, the bill is set to expire in 7 days. The threat to America does not expire in 7 days. The Senate Intelligence Committee completed work last fall on a bipartisan bill that we can support. It may need some tweaks, but it's a good bill in this sense: It will maintain the vital flow of intelligence on terrorist threats to protect the privacy of Americans while making sure we do not extend those same protections to terrorists overseas; it will provide liability protection to companies now facing billion dollars in lawsuits only because they are believed to have assisted the efforts to defend our Nation following the 9/11 attacks.

I'm looking forward to coming before you in Congress and to say as plainly as I can, this bill is important to the security of the United States of America, and the Congress needs to gets a good bill to my desk as soon as possible.

Anyway, I'm looking forward to working with you. I thank you. I appreciate the leadership. I appreciate the chance to come and visit with you. Thank you for being friends. Thank you for serving our country.

I also want to thank your families. I understand—I think I've told you this before, I understand what it does to a family to be in public service. You just can't thank our spouses and kids enough for joining in a noble cause of serving the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

I'm proud to be able to thank you and call you friends. I'm proud to be able to thank your families for serving our country as well. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:47 p.m. at The Greenbriar. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Tom Price of Georgia.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### January 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### January 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone briefing with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., on the global financial markets situation.

### January 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the East Room, he participated in a breakfast to honor the 35th annual March for Life. He then met with his economic advisers.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margaret Scobey to be Ambassador to Egypt.

The President announced his intention to nominate D. Kathleen Stephens to be Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

The President announced his intention to appoint Nancy Hellman Bechtle, J. Michael Shepherd, and William Wilson III as members of the Board of Directors of the Presidio Trust.

The President announced that he has appointed Charles R. Schwab as a member of the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy and, upon appointment, designated him as Chair.

The President announced that he has appointed John Bryant as a member of the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy and, upon appointment, designated him as Vice Chair.

The President announced that he has appointed the following individuals as members of the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy: Theodore Beck; Theodore R. Daniels; Cutler Dawson; Robert F. Duvall; Tahira Hira; Jack E. Kosakowski; Sharon L. Lechter; Robert V. Lee III; Laura Levine; David Mancl; Don J. McGrath; Janet Parker; Ignacio Salazar; and Mary L. Schapiro.

### ***January 23***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with Jimmy Roberts of NBC Sports for a U.S. Golf Association documentary. Later, in the Yellow Oval Room, he and Mrs. Bush hosted a social reception for Senate Republicans and their spouses.

### ***January 24***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with King Abdullah II of Jordan.

In the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with Susan Page and Richard Wolf of USA Today.

The President announced that he has named Jonathan Horn as Special Assistant to the President for Speechwriting.

The President announced that he has named Jeffrey Lungren as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Justin J. McCarthy as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Richard Reed as Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Senior Director for Continuity Policy.

The President announced that he has accorded the personal rank of Ambassador to Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., during his tenure and service as Special Envoy for Man-Portable Air Defense Systems.

### ***January 25***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to White Sulphur Springs, WV.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he participated in a speech preparation session for his January 28 State of the Union Address.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will travel to Africa and visit Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, and Liberia from February 15–21.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert J. Battista to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board and, upon confirmation, to designate him as Chair.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gerard Morales and Dennis P. Walsh to be members of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles Patrick Garcia and Susan Ross as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The President announced his intention to designate Elisebeth C. Cook as Acting Assistant Attorney General (Legal Policy).

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations